

HOUSE BILL NO. 718

INTRODUCED BY R. KOOPMAN

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING THAT AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS A JOB-ATTACHED WORKER, IN ORDER TO RECEIVE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, MUST MEET THE SAME REQUIREMENTS FOR SEEKING WORK AS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS NOT A JOB-ATTACHED WORKER."

WHEREAS, state policies that encourage worker idleness rob employees of job training, work ethic, and self-respect and at the same time rob the state's economy of the benefits of those workers' labor; and

WHEREAS, "job-attached worker" unemployment insurance coverage produces these negative outcomes while demonstrating no statistical gains in job security or worker retention; and

WHEREAS, these forms of planned paid unemployment greatly increase the financial burden on the unemployment insurance division and on the employers and employees who ultimately bear the costs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Job-attached and union-attached individuals to actively seek employment. (1) For the purposes of this section, "job-attached" means that:

(a) an individual has a definite or approximate date of hire or recall to insured work at which the individual will be regularly scheduled to work 30 or more hours per week; or

(b) an individual is employed in insured work on a less than full-time basis but has a reasonable expectation that the work will become full-time.

(2) A job-attached worker must meet the same requirements for seeking work to be eligible for benefits as an individual who is not a job-attached worker.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 39, chapter 51, and the provisions of Title 39, chapter 51, apply to [section 1].

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